

Message Text

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70

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 180230Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9808

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4856

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, SN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SEA APPEAL TO NVN

REF: BANGKOK 19403

1. SUMMARY: BELIEVE PROPOSAL ADVANCED REFTEL WOULD BE USEFUL IF MADE BY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SE ASIAN GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, SINGAPORE WOULD BE UNWILLING TO SPONSOR OR PROMOTE AND WOULD ONLY JOIN IN APPEAL TO NVN IF THERE WERE STRONG SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF APPEAL BY OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY INDONESIA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN VIEW OF ITS SIZE AND PAST PRACTICE OF KEEPING ITS HEAD DOWN ON MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE GOS WOULD BE WILLING TAKE LEAD IN CO-ORDINATING WITH ITS NEIGHBORS PROPOSED SEA APPEAL TO NVN. FURTHERMORE, GOS WOULD PROBABLY QUESTION DESIRABILITY OF SUCH APPEAL ON FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

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A. APPEAL DIRECTED SOLELY TO HANOI WOULD CLEARLY IMPLY THAT NVN HAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT BREACHES OF PEACE. GOS ALMOST CERTAINLY BELIEVES NVN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTINUED FIGHTING. HOWEVER,

GOS NOW HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH DRVN AND GVN AND AS NON-ALIGNED NATION WOULD PROBABLY FEEL THAT APPEAL DIRECTED ONLY TO ONE PARTY WOULD BE TOO POINTED AND MIGHT JEOPARDIZE FUTURE RELATIONS. WOULD PROBABLY PREFER GENERAL CALL TO ALL PARTIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION PARIS PEACE ACCORDS.

B. GOS MIGHT WELL FEEL THAT SUCH AN APPEAL WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY HANOI AS A SIGN OF ANXIETY AND WEAKNESS ON PART OF SEA GOVERNMENTS. PM LEE PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT DRV RESPONDS MORE TO ACTIONS THAN TO WORDS AND THAT THEREFORE STRONG GVN MILITARY POSTURE AND CLEAR EVIDENCE OF USG CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR GVN WOULD BE FAR MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE DESIRED RESULTS THAN APPEAL BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS CITED PARA 1 REFTTEL.

3. IF SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE TRIED BELIEVE INDONESIA WOULD HAVE BEST CHANCE OF PERSUADING GOS TO GO ALONG. IT IS CLEAR FROM NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS OVER PAST YEAR THAT GOS WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO INITIATIVE FROM GOI THAN FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY.
CRONK

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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